



MEMO

135 E. Maumee, Adrian, MI 49221-2703

DATE: February 24, 2016

TO: Hon. Lee Chatfield
Chair, Local Government Committee
Michigan House of Representatives

FROM: Chris Miller
DDA & Economic Development Coordinator

SUBJECT: HB 5232

Representative Chatfield, Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am writing today to urge you to oppose moving forward on HB 5232. As an economic developer who works daily with the challenges that communities across Michigan face, I can unequivocally state that Michigan's historic assets are key elements in the creation of Place; one of few economic development tools that local units have at their disposal.

Michigan has become a national leader in Placemaking, and understands better than many the critical role it plays in attracting and retaining talent, and the resulting economic development that follows. Unique places and experiences are at the heart of this Placemaking, and so the preservation of historic assets is a key advantage that Michigan has across the state in large and small communities.

For this reason, our existing historic districts and other historic assets, and the opportunity to maintain and add to those, represents a unique advantage and opportunity for Michigan. Maintaining and encouraging the addition of these assets is the appropriate role for communities, historic advocates, and the legislature.

HB 5232, instead of helping local units maintain and grow our unique historic assets, instead undermines their existence and creation. Others will address the many elements of this proposed legislation that are problematic; I will simply ask for your help in maintaining these critically important assets.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christopher D. Miller
City of Adrian
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